



Dolores Mary Baumgartner

March 27, 1938 - December 29, 2023

In Memoriam: Dolores Mary Baumgartner

It is with a heavy heart that I must share the news of the passing of Dolores Mary Baumgartner, cherished wife, mother and grandmother. Her warm and communicative spirit endeared her to all she encountered, effortlessly befriendng everyone and uncovering their life stories with just a few words.

Dolores left us on December 29th, 2023, a victim of COVID at our home in San Jose. Born on March 27th, 1938, in Hoboken, New Jersey, to Chester Zalewski and Mary Rudnicki Zalewski, she grew up in the close-knit Polish community in Jersey City. Graduating from Ferris High School in 1956, she married Walter Opalach Sr., and had three children—Walter Jr. (deceased), Daniel “Dan,” and Cynthia.

After calling many places around the country home, Dolores steered the family towards the warmth of California, establishing roots in Sunnyvale. In 1968, now with grown children, Dolores pursued a career, attending college and becoming a computer technician before joining the Westinghouse Computer Department. After a split from her first husband, fate stepped in and she met Allan Baumgartner, with whom she would spend the rest of her life. Together they had two children, Yvette and Brendon. After a stint in San Diego, the family settled back in the Bay Area, this time in San Jose.

Dolores is survived by her husband, Allan, her children, Daniel (Kerri), Cynthia (Chris), Yvette (Robert), and Brendon (Anna), numerous grandchildren, Daniella (Joe), Dustin (Trinity), Tessa, Natalie, Jacquelyn, Jasper, Beatrix, and Dylan. She is additionally survived by her siblings Julie, (Will), Eugene, Chester, and Joseph (Christine), and numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Teresa, and her son, Walter Jr.

Dolores the love of my life was an exceptionally caring wife, and mother, and leaves a legacy of compassion and kindness. Her love for everyone, dedication to the homeless, and care for plants endeared her to all who knew her. Her absence leaves an irreplaceable void, but her memory will forever live on in our hearts. Amen.

Donations to: Grace Church would be greatly appreciated.

Flowers to: Grace Church Memory of Dolores Baumgartner

=== Funeral Service shall be at: ===

January 18th 2024, 12:00PM PT

Grace Church of Evergreen

2650 Aborn Rd., San Jose, CA 95121

John Goldstein, Pastor (John@GraceChurchEvergreen.com)

www.GraceChurchEvergreen.com, (408) 274-1200

=== Burial to follow: ===

2:00 PM PT

Oak Hill Cemetery

300 Curtner Ave., San Jose, CA 95125

www.Oakhillfuneral.com, (408) 297-2447

Cemetery Details

Oak Hill Cemetery

300 Curtner Ave
San Jose, CA 95122

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 18. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (PT)

Grace Church of Evergreen
2650 Aborn Rd
San Jose, CA 95121

Burial

JAN 18. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (PT)

Oak Hill Cemetery
300 Curtner Ave
San Jose, CA 95122

Tribute Wall

KO

“ I remember during the whirlwind of middle school, Delores was a constant source of support for us as kids. She drove us to endless activities -- always with a smile. Like Mary Poppins, she had a way of turning the ordinary into something special.

Beyond the car rides to school, sleep overs, golfland, and birthday parties, Delores was always there for us. She was our after-school mom and kept us out of trouble. Unfortunately, I don't think we were ever able to convince her to buy us alcohol.

She did however make the best hamburgers for us when we went to her house. I also remember she always had a green thumb and enjoyed looking after her plants.

As we reflect on Delores's life, I'll make sure to carry forward the lessons she taught us - the importance of kindness, especially to us kids. We were all her kids really...

Mary Poppins once said, "In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun, and the job's a game," Delores embodied this philosophy, by finding joy and laughter hanging around us kids. Even after we were all grown up, she was always someone we could easily talk to.

Today, I know Delores is up above in Heaven smiling on all of us. May she rest in peace, leaving behind a legacy of warmth and the simple but profound impact of a caring heart.

Kong - January 22, 2024 at 12:55 PM

“ Dolores - Allan's Talk in Grace Church

I could talk about Dolores all day and not repeat myself,

The stories were great,

Paul's bakery,

Pizza with Madeline,

Skating with Tommy,

Pascagoula, Mississippi,

Fort Walton Beach

Ireland,

Spain with Concita

Her iterant travels with her husband Walter and their two youngsters

Walt Jr and Dan.

Pulling a trailer and finding a place to rent

The magic birth of a baby girl, Cynthia,

then Milwaukee Wisconsin in winter

which prompted the family to settle at Planetree Place, Sunnyvale,

California

Her fall out of the Jeep

Her 1965 LeMans Pontiac

Lots of watching Walt and Dan play baseball

And I havn't even met her yet,

Amidst all the busy activities, you may not have realized: Dolores was an extraordinarily sensuous women. It was very obvious if you were around her:

She could hear, she could hear what to me wasn't even there. Since my time in the Army I can't hear well, Dolores became my ears. In recent years I have been relying on her more and more.

Dolores would tell if the air changed. If the temperature went up or down, she would tell me. Then tell me to fix it. If a tree or flower burst on the scene, she would smell it, tell me and I would try to smell it to.

She had sharp, and very perceptive eyes, she could see as much or more from the corner of her eyes than I could make out head on.

Dolores was more than just my copilot when I was driving. I'm sure her "watch out" saved us more than once.

Then, there was her curious habit of spotting change or sometimes jewelry on the ground, nearly every day. She would often write a little note about the occasion. Yesterday Yvette and I read and chuckled reading about what Dolores was doing 30 years ago. But most extraordinary was her sense of touch. Dolores would look at a plant or flower, crumble the earth and know immediately if it needed plant vitamins, a drying out or a bath. The resurrection of lonely plants was a legendary gift.

But I didn't know, until "the day": it was at Westinghouse, I was teaching her how to load a computer tape drive. She brushed against me and I was touched, smitten really, by an electric shock. What just happened? I didn't dare know until a year later. It was a major layoff; I was leaving Westinghouse. I held a going away party at my home more than hour away in Walnut Creek. She and Concita got lost, but they persevered and came thru the door just after 10:00. Dolores and I danced, and there was that lightning again, this time it powered up a magnet. For the next several years, we had our own communication beam. We always sensed where the other was. We never lost touch until the time was right, to have our two kids Yvette and Brendon.

Now over 50 years later, at home, it might be just dis and dat, but as we walked by one another we would always touch, brush by and feel the lightning. In the evening, or sometimes in midday, she would be sitting on the sofa and command "sit by me". It was as thrilling as if we just met. We would cuddle keeping each other warm. Going to bed, we would always go to bed together, we would kiss goodnight, every night. She possessed a singular, special sense of touch.

Since she endured a pulmonary embolism few years ago, we have never been separated. We walk to the garbage dumpster together, we shop the store aisles together. Wherever we go, whatever we do, we enjoy doing it together.

As we celebrate Dolores Mary Baumgartner' crossing to heaven, she will lead as always and I shall soon follow.

Allan

FA

“ From Nieya Anjomi purchased the *Pretty Please* for the family of Dolores Mary Baumgartner.



From Nieya Anjomi - January 14, 2024 at 07:53 PM

L(

“ Love, 'cuz' Diane (Reyna) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dolores Mary Baumgartner.

Love, 'cuz' Diane (Reyna) - January 13, 2024 at 03:04 PM

L(

“ Love, 'cuz' Diane (Reyna) purchased the *Arrive in Style* for the family of Dolores Mary Baumgartner.



Love, 'cuz' Diane (Reyna) - January 13, 2024 at 03:04 PM

BC

“ Brother Joe & Wife Chris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dolores Mary Baumgartner.

Brother Joe & Wife Chris - January 12, 2024 at 09:36 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dolores Mary Baumgartner.* ”



January 12, 2024 at 09:36 AM